

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 MAY 2009

SCHOOL LEAVERS DESTINATIONS 2007/08

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Governance and Scrutiny Committee Members of the destinations of leavers from East Ayrshire schools in 2007/08, as published by the Scottish Government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Scottish Government publishes annual national and education authority level statistical information on the destinations of young people leaving Scottish schools. These reports are available through the National web-site and additionally are issued electronically as statistical bulletins. The previous practice of issuing, annual, printed statistical bulletins has been discontinued.
- 2.2 The Statistics Publication Notice and accompanying tables (Appendices 1 and 2) can be found on the Scottish Government Web Site: www.scotland.gov.uk

3. MAIN FINDINGS

- 3.1 The main findings for leavers from East Ayrshire schools compared to the national average are:
- The proportion of young people who entered full-time higher education has remained at 26%. This compares to 31% nationally.
 - The proportion of young people who entered full-time further education has increased from 28% 2006-07 to 31% in 2007-08. Nationally the proportion of school leavers entering further education has increased to 25%.
 - The proportion of young people who entered training has increased from 7% in 2006-07 to 8% in 2007-08. This compares to a national average of 5%.
 - The proportion of young people entering employment has decreased from 24% in 2006-07 to 19% in 2007-08. The national average is 25%.
 - The proportion of young people not in employment, education or training has increased from 13% in 2006-07 to 16% in 2007-08. The national average is 14%.
- 3.2 The information on School Leavers Destinations at school level is included in Appendix 3.

3.3 The highest proportion of positive destinations are reported at Stewarton Academy where 9 out of 10 school leavers enter employment, education or training after school. This is followed by Loudoun Academy at 89% and Grange Academy at 87%.

4. EAST AYRSHIRE STRATEGY TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE SECURE A POSITIVE AND SUSTAINED DESTINATION.

4.1 The 16+ Learning Choices Programme approved by Cabinet on May 6th 2009 details the strategy to be used to secure a positive destination for all 16+ pupils in East Ayrshire.. This programme will be implemented in all East Ayrshire Schools by December 2009.

4.2 Schools will work in partnership with Skills Development Scotland, Community Learning, EAC Skills Development and Employability Service, Leisure Development, local Colleges, training providers and third sector organisations to ensure that all 16 year old school leavers are offered the opportunity to continue with education, training or employment.

4.3 The appointment of a 16+ Learning Choices Coordinator has been approved by Cabinet. This post will assist schools manage implementation of the programme based on the priorities outlined below in 4.3 -4.11.

4.4 An action plan will be created, with milestones, to facilitate the rollout of 16+ Learning Choices for summer 2009 leavers in the target schools and subsequently for all leavers by winter 2009.

4.5 Performance management arrangements will be established which ensure that the Local Authority is able, with partner agencies, to report on performance in the programme, including the ability to track individual young people to monitor the sustainability of destinations achieved.

4.6 A communication strategy to support the rollout of 16+ Learning Choices across the authority will be developed and rolled out from June 2009.

4.7 A 16+ Learning Choices Operational Group which includes, Skills Development Scotland, Secondary Schools, Community Learning and Development, East Ayrshire Skills Employability Service, representatives of the voluntary sector and employer representation will be formed.

4.8 The co-ordinator will work with key partners to seek out and map education, training and employment provision, including employability training opportunities, for all leavers. She will seek to make best use of this information with schools and other organisations supporting young people pre-16. Such organisations would include, for example, Youth Strategy.

4.9 The co-ordinator will communicate the views of East Ayrshire on national projects which are developing data sharing/access agreements.

4.10 The co-ordinator will develop effective partnership working to ensure the best use of all available resources.

4.11 The co-ordinator will ensure that the 16+ Learning Choices and the More Choices More Chances programmes are jointly managed and co-ordinated to achieve the best possible outcomes for our young people.

5. EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL MORE CHOICES: MORE CHANCES STRATEGY

5.1 Over the next two years £370,000 has been allocated each year from the Fairer Scotland Fund to provide More Choices and More Chances (MC:MC) for vulnerable young people at risk of exclusion from education employment or training (NEET) in East Ayrshire.

5.2 A Coordinator has been seconded for 2 years to coordinate the MC:MC Strategy for the authority in partnership with members of the MC:MC strategy group.

5.3 The MC:MC Strategy group has produced an Action Plan linked to the Community Plan to work with all partners to provide employment training or educational opportunities for young people in East Ayrshire. The Action Plan is based on six themes and these are outlined in 5.4 – 5.9 below.

5.4 Track all young people at risk of not entering employment education or training while in school and monitor their post 16 destinations.

5.5 Improve the attainment and achievement of young people in need of More Choices and More Chances. This theme will focus on 'looked after' young people and those young people who have disengaged from school. Mentoring programmes for looked after young people are already established and priority will be given to the development of alternative curricular arrangements for those who have are at risk of or who have already disengaged from school.

5.6 Develop more effective employer engagement to allow pupils in S4-S6 to experience appropriate, flexible work experience at a stage that suits their educational progression. This theme will also seek to engage businesses in supporting young people through their corporate social responsibility policies.

5.7 Working in partnership with third sector partners funded by Inspiring Scotland to provide More Choices and More Chances for young people both in Schools and Post 16. Our Inspiring Scotland Partners are:

PARTNER	PROJECT	TARGET GROUP
Action for Children	Youthbuild	Post 16
East Ayrshire Carers Centre	Employability Training for Young Carers	School and Post 16
Enable Scotland	Employability Training for ASN Pupils	School and Post 16
Impact Arts	Gallery 37, Creative Pathways	School and Post 16
The Prince's Trust	Team Project, XL Groups	School and Post 16
Tomorrow's People	To be confirmed	Post 16
YIPWORLD	Supporting young people in and beyond education	School and Post 16

- 5.8** Improved Partnership working to facilitate the effective sharing of data on young people between the Council, Skills Development Scotland, EAC Skills Development and Employability Service, Colleges and Job Centre plus. The full implementation of the 16+ Learning Choices programme will support young people with the offer of a positive destination and the improvement of school – college joint working will improve opportunities for young people both in and after school.
- 5.9** Appropriate CPD will be offered to partners as needs are identified. Training will be offered to participants in the LAAC mentoring programme and the sharing of good practice in providing More Choices and More Chances locally and nationally will take place at events during the next session.
- 5.10** The 16+ Learning Choices Programme and MC:MC strategy will work in tandem to provide More Choices and More Chances for all young people in East Ayrshire. Working with partners, high quality programmes will be developed in schools and in post 16 education and training to allow our young people to develop the skills and attitudes necessary to progress into and sustain positive destinations in education, training and employment.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This paper demonstrates the Department's contribution to the Lifelong Learning Community Plan.

8 Risk Implications

8.1 Nil

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** It is recommended that Members of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee:
- (i) invite the Executive Director to continue to provide an annual report on leavers destinations and note the development to date of the 16+ Learning Choices and MC:MC strategy; and
 - (ii) otherwise, note the content of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
14 May 2009

GS/MR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools, Scottish Government Statistical Publication Notice, 10 December 2008

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel: (01563) 576017

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

**Appendix 1
Destinations of Leavers 2007-08: The East Ayrshire Family Group**

2007/08		Number of leavers	Full-time higher education (%)	Full-time further education (%)	Training (%)	Employment (%)	Other known destinations (%)	Destination unknown (%)
East Ayrshire		1,487	26	31	8	19	15	1
Clackmannanshire		630	22	27	9	28	14	0
Falkirk		1,722	28	19	12	28	13	0
North Ayrshire		1,730	29	32	6	19	13	1
North Lanarkshire		3,997	29	23	8	27	13	0
West Lothian		2,054	29	22	2	27	18	2
Comparator Family Av		10,133	27	25	7	26	14	1
National Average		58,823	31	25	5	25	13	1

**Appendix 2
Destinations of Leavers 2002/03 to 2007-08: East Ayrshire**

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Full-time higher education (%)	28	31	30	25	26	26
	East Ayrshire					
	31	29	31	30	30	31
	Scotland					
Full-time further education (%)	22	22	21	23	28	31
	East Ayrshire					
	21	21	21	23	23	25
	Scotland					
Training (%)	7	6	9	9	7	8
	East Ayrshire					
	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Scotland					
Employment (%)	19	19	19	21	24	19
	East Ayrshire					
	23	25	27	26	28	26
	Scotland					
Other known destinations (%)	21	20	19	20	12	15
	East Ayrshire					
	16	16	13	13	11	13
	Scotland					
Destination unknown (%)	3	2	2	2	1	1
	East Ayrshire					
	4	4	3	2	1	1
	Scotland					

Appendix 3
Destinations of Leavers 2007-08: by School

2007/08	Number of leavers	Full-time higher education (%)	Full-time further education (%)	Training (%)	Employment (%)	Other known destinations (%)	Destination unknown (%)
Auchinleck Academy	221	23	28	10	24	15	1
Cumnock Academy	189	25	35	8	13	19	0
Doon Academy	75	7	35	11	27	20	1
Grange Academy	186	32	21	6	25	13	3
James Hamilton Academy	156	22	38	5	19	15	1
Kilmarnock Academy	147	25	24	5	23	21	1
Loudoun Academy	237	25	39	8	17	11	0
St Joseph's Academy	120	35	25	10	16	14	0
Stewarton Academy	156	35	33	8	13	10	1
East Ayrshire	1,487	26	31	8	19	15	1
National	58,823	31	25	5	25	13	1